

Audubon of Martin County Birdwatching & Photography Tours

at

Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area

Lakeside STA is a new exciting wetland area, located in Western Martin County. This 2,600-acre project involved constructing a wetland that will use aquatic vegetation to remove phosphorus from stormwater runoff in the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough basin before it enters Lake Okeechobee. The cleansing of the waters is critical for the survival of bird species and their food supply sources, and all the critters that live on or near the STAs.

Audubon of Martin County (AoMC) is fortunate to be working with South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in a cooperative agreement to conduct tours at Lakeside STA in a 5-year project. The object of these tours is to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy bird watching at the STA.

During the winter migration, thousands of birds of all species will be traveling through the STAs. This is a driving tour around water impound areas, with stops along the way for better viewing with scopes and to hear information from our tour leaders about the birds and their behaviors. Many unusual bird sighting have been noted – beautiful white pelicans, short tailed hawks, burrowing owls and snail kites to mention a few. We have 2 established eagle nests in good viewing sight along the pathway.

Four of our tours are designed just for photographers and NOT for bird identification purposes. These tours will be led by noted wildlife videographer John Nelson.

AoMC Birding & Photography tour dates. 2013 thru 2014 season:

Sept 21 birding tour	Jan 18 birding
Sept 28 photography tour	Jan 25 photography
Oct 19 birding	Feb 15 birding
Nov 16 birding	March 15 birding
Nov 30 photography	March 29 photography
Dec 21 birding	April 19 birding

Please join us for one of our tours. Our first birding tour will be on September 21, then each 3rd Saturday of the month. Visit our website audubonmartincounty.org, Facebook [audubonmartincounty](https://www.facebook.com/audubonmartincounty) or contact Bev Poppke to register or additional information at 772-288-2637. You may also email us at audubonmartincounty@gmail.com.

For information about the STAs, contact Bijaya Kattel of the South Florida Water Management District at 561-682-6640 or email bjkattel@sfwmd.gov.

This is a fun and learning event for the whole family